



PFLAG Colorado Springs

Parents, Families, Friends, and Allies United
With LGBT People to Move Equality Forward

March 2016



March Program: Important Update on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment

The March PFLAG program will focus on the development of a new HIV/AIDS prevention drug, PrEP, and its increasing availability for those who are partnered with others who are HIV positive or have been diagnosed with AIDS.

PrEP is an acronym for pre-exposure prophylaxis, which means the use of prescription drugs by HIV-negative people who are at high risk of becoming infected. Interest in this subject has been growing since the CDC's 2014 endorsement of *Truvada*.

The speaker will be Ernest Bilinski, who has been serving as the Prevention Services Manager for the Southern Colorado AIDS Project (SCAP) since September 2015.

He will provide an update on the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Colorado and the disparity in the way it is experienced in different communities as well as an

overview of SCAP's current programs, services and events.

Since 1988, SCAP has provided comprehensive and individualized care to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Colorado. It maintains offices in Colorado Springs and Pueblo and some staff travel to outlying counties.. See <http://www.coloradohealthnetwork.org/southern-colorado-aids-project>
Today SCAP provides a variety of services to persons living with HIV/AIDS as



Ernest Bilinski (and Julie)

(Continued on page 2)

Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Summit at UCCS March 12th

The One Colorado GSA Network will host its Southern Colorado Regional Gay-Straight Alliance Leadership Summit at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS), 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway on March 12th to bring together students, advisors, and other stakeholders committed to making schools safe and inclusive for LGBTQ youth.

At the Summit, leaders will share best practices for creating and supporting GSA programs and facilitating leadership development for students.

This event is free. Students (middle school, high school, and college) and adults engaged in creating safe, inclusive learning environments are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The program will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. REGISTRATION FOR THE SUMMIT IS NOW OPEN! [Click here](#) for more information and to reserve your spot today. Travel scholarships are available by emailing Lauren Cikara at cogsa@one-colorado.org.

MARCH PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday
March 15, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Ernest Bilinski
Prevention Services Manager
Southern Colorado AIDS
Project (SCAP)

The Dwelling Place
508 North Tejon Street
Everyone is welcome.

Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.

April PFLAG Meeting — A Panel of Faith Leaders

Pastor Alycia Erickson of the Metropolitan Community Church and several other spiritual leaders will be our guests for a panel discussion in April.

"Fabulous 50s" April 23 —SCAP Red Ribbon Ball

Tickets are now available for this gala annual fundraising event. See the Bulletin Board on p. 4 for information.

LGBT Stories in TV and Film

This has been a remarkable year for LGBT characters and stories in film and TV. From mainstream movies to independent films, major networks to cable outlets, Netflix, HBO and Amazon, there are more opportunities than ever for LGBT stories to be told.

Follow this PFLAGVoice blogspot link for some of the highlights of a fantastic year: <http://pflagvoice.blogspot.com/2016/01/lgbtfilm.html>



This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG.

PFLAG Vision Statement. PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

PFLAG Mission Statement: By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ

Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ

Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

To join the local chapter and receive the newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please contact us.

E-mail address: info@cspflag.org

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

P.O. Box 49131
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website:
www.cspflag.org

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith
E-mail: karenfstith@gmail.com

To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to info@cspflag.org

The Transgender Battle Line: Childhood

By Debra W. Soh, *The Wall Street Journal* 1/15/16 - (Excerpts)

Psychologists have learned how to treat adults with gender dysphoria, but how about 5-year-olds?

What should parents do if their little boy professes an intense desire to be a girl? Or if their daughter comes home from kindergarten and says she [is] wants to be a boy? In recent years the dominant thinking has changed dramatically regarding children's gender dysphoria.

Previously, parents might hope that it would be a passing phase, as it usually is. But now they are under pressure from gender-identity politics, which asserts that children as young as 5 should be supported in wanting to live as the opposite sex. Any attempts to challenge this approach are deemed intolerant and oppressive.

Research has established best-treatment practices for adolescents and adults with gender dysphoria: full transitioning, which includes treatment with hormones to suppress puberty and help the individual develop breasts of facial hair, as well as gender reassignment surgery.

But prepubescent children who identify with the opposite sex are another

matter entirely... a high percentage, up to 80% in a study of 44 gender-dysphoric boys — grow up to be not transgender, but bisexual, gay or lesbian adults. Pushing children to transition at increasingly younger ages so that they will fit neatly into one of two gender categories is false and unscientific. It is more progressive to offer them the time and space they need to figure out who they are.

Update on HIV/AIDS (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

well as HIV prevention programs including rapid testing, risk reduction counseling, PrEP support services, and a syringe access program.

Bilinski is originally from Orlando, Florida and relocated to Colorado Springs in November 2014 for a position with Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains. As the Education Program Specialist, he gave sexual health presentations to youth and adults and conducted outreach programs.

After graduating from Florida State University with a BS in Health Education, he worked as an education program instructor at SeaWorld. He gave presentations to guests at park exhibits and led tours and school, overnight, and summer camp programs. He also worked with animals including alligators, snakes, and penguins. (He had a special bond with Julie, the penguin in the photo.)

When not working, Bilinski volunteers with Inside/Out Youth Services and teaches indoor cycling classes at the YMCA. He recently became a member of Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus. He enjoys hiking and exploring the natural beauty of the Pikes Peak region.

Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)

TYES is a PFLAG affiliate that offers education and support to families with gender variant children. TYES information is available at PFLAG meetings.

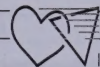
TYES families in the Pikes Peak region keep in touch by phone and through a private Facebook page. To contact the Colorado Springs TYES volunteers, call PFLAG at (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to info@cspflag.org.

The TYES program originated and is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado.

More information is available at the national TYES website www.TYES-Colorado.org

Thank you

To the Saponas Foundation and First Congregational United Church of Christ for their significant, ongoing support of Colorado Springs PFLAG.



National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Luncheon at the Pinery—March 10th

In observance of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, SCAP is hosting the 6th annual awareness day luncheon, at the Pinery at the Hill, 775 West Bijou Street. Tickets are \$30 per person, with net proceeds benefiting SCAP programs and services.

The guest speaker is Barb Cardell, chair of the Governor's Coalition for HIV Prevention and Education and Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Positive Women's Network.

Living with HIV, Barb is an advocate for women nationwide. She is currently leading a campaign to reduce HIV-related stigma and has become a dynamic spokesperson for women living with HIV.

We may get a PFLAG table together. If you are interested, call Karen at 634-4433. For more information about this event and to register for the luncheon, [Click here](#) or call SCAP at (719) 578-9092.

Share Knowledge—Take Action

Shop and Support Colorado Springs PFLAG With a King Soopers Gift Card



A New Fundraising Program for Colorado Springs PFLAG

Colorado Springs PFLAG has joined the King Soopers/Kroger Neighborhood Rewards Gift Card Program to raise funds for our local chapter. This is such an easy, ongoing fundraiser! PFLAG will receive 5% of the amount spent through our gift cards for groceries, gas, prescriptions, everything purchased at King Soopers/Kroger stores.

You still use your King Soopers membership card to get discounts, including points for gas. You load the gift card with your credit card, and get all the miles or other perks that your credit card provides. It's a win-win-win.

New board member Cindy Waldmann and her husband, Steve, are managing our participation in this fundraising program. A gift card already loaded with \$25 can be purchased from Cindy by cash or check at a PFLAG meeting.

*Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about the things that
matter.*

- Martin Luther King

When you shop at King Soopers, you will need to load your rewards gift card with the cashier at the register before scanning and paying for your purchases. You can reload your gift card for any amount up to \$500 and the card can be used indefinitely.

Every time you reload your gift card, PFLAG will earn money back from King Soopers.

If participants spend a total of at least \$5,000 in a month, King Soopers will send a check to the chapter treasurer for 5% of the total spent. If we don't hit \$5,000 in purchases for the month, the balance rolls forward to the next month.

Colorado Springs PFLAG has always depended on membership fees to support the chapter. This fundraiser will help with the fees for our PrideFest booth and Parade entry, information tables at school events and conferences, the cost of occasionally hosting the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters meeting in Colorado Springs, newsletter costs and more.

So -please purchase your own gift card and get started!

Thank you to Cindy and Steve for getting this program underway.



Inside/Out News:

Director Mary Malia is partnering with Lauren Cikara at One Colorado to bring a van of Inside/Out youth to Denver on February 29th to participate in LGBT Lobby Day at the State Capitol. The youth will have an opportunity to put advocacy into action by talking with legislators about LGBT issues.

They will also be attending the Gay Straight Alliance Summit at UCCS all day on March 12th, meeting GSA leaders, students, counselors and advocates from various schools in Southern Colorado.

"The Fire Within", a suicide prevention program offered by the Carson Spencer Foundation of Denver, started at Inside/Out on January 8th and is continuing to meet all day every other Saturday. The youth are now learning business skills involving development and marketing of a product that furthers the goal of suicide prevention.

Inside/Out is partnering with Seeds Community Cafe and the Colorado College Mobile Food Truck in March. The Mobile Food Truck will come to Inside/Out and youth will learn about food preparation and have a chance to cook on the truck. Sounds like fun!

We regularly bring non-perishable food items for the I/O pantry to PFLAG meetings. Food is important. Please help.

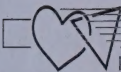
Inside Out Youth Services is a Colorado nonprofit that provides support to LGBTIQ youth ages 13-22.

Always Remember —

That our PFLAG meetings are a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear—

Must remain strictly confidential.



BULLETIN BOARD

March 4-19— [spectrum: lgbt new play festival] Funky Little Theater Company, 2109 Templeton Gap Road, Colorado Springs. Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7:00 p.m.

March 10—National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Luncheon— The Pinery, 775 Bijou Street, 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. \$30 per person. Sponsored by SCAP. See article, p. 1.

March 12—One Colorado GSA Regional Summit UCCS, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy, 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m. Free, open to students, teachers, counselors. See article p. 1

March 10-12—TRANSforming Gender Conference— Gender and Sexuality Center, University of Colorado, Boulder. This powerful event is free and open to the public! For more information, go to: <http://www.colorado.edu/gsc/transforming-gender-conference-2016>

April 23—“The Fabulous 50s” — Red Ribbon Ball This elegant annual event supports The Southern Colorado Aids Project (SCAP) !!!!! Dinner, auction, dancing. The Antlers Hotel, 6:00 p.m. For more information and tickets call (719) 578-9092 or go to <http://www.coloradohealthnetwork.org/event-app/red-ribbon-ball>

May 20-21— Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus— Spring Concert. Friday evening, Saturday matinee, and Saturday evening. Reserve your slot as a PFLAG usher by contacting Cindy Waldmann 488-9887.

June 18— Out Loud Colorado Springs Men's Chorus - Pre- GALA Festival Event. Save the date—details to be announced.

July 2-6 Gala Chorus Festival in Denver—Colorado is hosting its second GALA Festival. Like the World Cup, GALA happens every 4 years. See <http://galachoruses.org>

July 9-10—Colorado Springs PrideFest.



LGBT New Play Festival Opens March 4

Funky Little Theater Company, the newest, grooviest, funkier theatre in town, has hosted the regional premieres of six productions and the world premieres of two others, as well as many other productions and special events in its short time here in Colorado Springs.

FLTC is now very proud to present its newest theatrical endeavor, **[spectrum: lgbt new play festival]**, a world premiere of eight plays from playwrights around the country with performances on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from March 4-19 at 7:00 p.m.. Friday and Saturday tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.funkylittletheater.org or at the door. Thursday tickets are only \$11 (great for students or date night). All performances will be at Funky Little Theater Company located at 2109 Templeton Gap Road in Colorado Springs.

In the fall of 2015 FLTC put out a call for submissions of previously unproduced short plays that focused, embraced, showcased, or advocated for individuals in the LGBT community. The final eight shows were chosen from 269 candidates.

They are: *Last Dance* by David-Matthew Barnes (a theatre college professor) (CO); *Contrition* by Tim Brennan (MN); *The Screens* by Erik Champney (NY); *The Authoress* by Seth Freeman (this will be his 100th production) (NY); *Gayfever* by Joe Gulla (named The Advocate's Anti-Bullying Hero in 2012 and currently in a one man show at Joe's Pub at The Public in NYC) (NY); *A Place to Hide* by Kenneth Johnson (award winning playwright) (TX); *A Monogamy of Swans* by John Minigan (MA); and *The Haunting of Camp Rod and Staff* by Madolyn Whitmer (new playwright) (TX).

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

Name: _____

_____ New member _____ Renewing member

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Check here if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail _____

_____ Regular Membership	\$ 30
_____ Supporting Member—Silver	40
_____ Supporting Member—Gold	60
_____ Supporting Member—Platinum	100

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Each year our chapter must contribute \$15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 49131, Colorado Springs, CO 80949. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.

